

Congress granted American citizenship to the residents of Puerto Rico in 1917. This bill provides a congressionally recognized framework for the 3.8 million people of Puerto Rico to freely express their wishes regarding their options for full self-government for the first time in almost a century of U.S. Administration.

Puerto Ricans have been the largest body of U.S. citizens which do not enjoy the privileges usually accorded to citizenship, including voting representation in Congress and the right to vote in Presidential elections.

Puerto Ricans are the largest group of Hispanic citizens in the U.S. and have only a second class citizenship.

H.R. 856 rectifies the problem of second class citizenship by empowering the people of Puerto Rico to become fully enfranchised, either outside of or wholly within the scope of the U.S. Constitution, through the exercise of their right of self-determination.

More than 340,000 soldiers from Puerto Rico have served in the U.S. armed forces since 1917, and more than 8,000 Puerto Ricans have died fighting for America in the U.S. armed forces.

H.R. 856 creates a constitutionally sound process to resolve the status of Puerto Rico.

Inaction is costing the U.S. taxpayer, in that the 3.8 million U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico will continue to enjoy a free ride exemption from the Federal income taxes the rest of us pay.

A vote against H.R. 856 will continue to deny the people of Puerto Rico the right of self-determination, the very same right which the U.S. so consistently and forcefully advocates in the rest of the world among its allies.

TRIBUTE TO ANNIE CHAU

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Annie Chau, a dedicated community leader who is being honored as a "Young Woman of Excellence" by the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Annie Chau was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the United States in 1991. Over the past seven years, she has made remarkable contributions to San Mateo County. As a San Mateo High School student, she has held the positions of Class Treasurer and Vice President of the International Club, in addition to being part of the school's math team, marching band, and local Amnesty International chapter. Ms. Chau has volunteered with children as a reading tutor, an art instructor, and an activity assistant. Further, she represents the youth of the community through her work on the San Mateo County Youth Commission and the Foster City Youth Advisory Council. Annie Chau has achieved a 4.0 GPA and she has been repeatedly recognized for her academic accomplishments in science, math, Latin and Spanish, along with all her volunteer efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Annie Chau is an outstanding leader and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating her on being chosen a "Young Woman of Excellence" by the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

HONORING ROSEMARY LOMBARD

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Rosemary Lombard. Rosemary is held in the highest esteem by the Irish American community for her overall integrity, leadership and commitment to the preservation of Irish culture and tradition. She has ably chaired and actively participated in numerous major civic, religious, and charitable causes over the years.

Rosemary is a first generation Irish American of Counties Mayo and Sligo heritage. She was born in Washington Heights, Manhattan and was instilled at an early age with a love of Ireland and all things Irish. During her life, she has served tirelessly in the preservation of Irish culture and tradition. Most important of these traditions is the strong and fervent belief in the attainment of human rights for all people of Ireland.

Having her Bachelor's and Masters degrees from Hunter College, and an Educational Leadership Certificate from Manhattan College, Rosemary served as a past President, founding member and Director of the Irish Teachers Association. In addition, she was a past Chairperson of the Irish American Heritage and Cultural Week Committee of the New York City Board of Education. She also broke ground by being the first woman President of the Mayo Society. Her other posts have included: Treasurer of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration Committee; delegate to the St. Patrick's Day Parade for over 25 years; President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 3; United Irish Counties Association's Second Vice President; charter member of the Irish American Heritage Museum; Secretary of the 46th Police Precinct Council, Board Member of the Fordham Civic Association; and Member of the Board of Directors of the Irish Institute.

I think you will agree with me that Rosemary has contributed enormously to our community and deserves much recognition for her dedicated years of service. Today, I pay tribute to Rosemary Lombard and her tireless efforts and know my colleagues will join with me in recognizing her tremendous contributions to education about Irish American heritage and human rights.

COMMENDING THE BRAZOS VALLEY YOUTH TROUPE FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in recognition of the Brazos Valley Youth Troupers, who have just spent their spring break taking on Broadway. These talented youth were the first group chosen by Camp Broadway to attend their performing arts instructional camp in New York City. Selected for their wealth of acting experience, this group of 10 to 17-year olds have represented their community of Bryan, Texas with excellence in all of their achievements.

In just two years, the Brazos Valley Youth Troupe has performed for the Olympic Torch Relay, appeared in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and now studied under the direction of various Tony Award winners on Broadway. The troupe's performance in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* drew rave reviews from the national touring cast they performed with, as well as the audience. With Camp Broadway, sixteen youth from the troupe traveled to New York City, took classes from the likes of Carol Channing and famed director George C. Wolfe, and met with the cast and crew of *Titanic* in an educational workshop—all at their own expense. In a short period of time, these youths were able to raise \$1000 per student to cover their expenses of participating in Camp Broadway.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts of young citizens such as these involved in Brazos Valley Youth Troupe. They reflect the commitment and direction that makes our nation strong. They found a goal and went for it—making themselves a success and, in turn, a success of their community. I join with the citizens of Bryan in applauding them for their accomplishments and encourage them to use that ambition in all their future endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF FRANK BROWN

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Frank Brown, a loving, devoted father and family man, decorated veteran, and a successful businessman who passed away in Los Angeles on December 21, 1997.

Frank was born on January 27, 1918, in Old Town, a section of Lewisville, Arkansas. His mother, Kate Bradley, and grandparents Kathryn and Abe, instilled in Frank and his sisters Bernice and Daisy, the solid foundation and commitment to community and family that would serve as his guiding principle for years to come. Following his graduation from Lewisville High School, Frank moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, where he worked in a lumber mill and played first base for one of the few semiprofessional black baseball teams, the Shreveport Black Sports.

Frank answered his country's call in World War II, serving in the United States Army's 870th Engineering and Aviation Battalion in the South Pacific. He received numerous citations and medals for his distinguished military service and was honorably discharged in 1945. Upon leaving the Army, Frank realized one of his longtime goals of building a home for his mother in Arkansas.

From Arkansas Frank moved to Los Angeles, California, where he married Odessa Brown, another Lewisville native, on May 21, 1946. Frank and Odessa produced five children: Marion, Gwendolyn, Kathleen, Frank, and Reginald. In Los Angeles, Frank pursued a career as a glazier and worked for years to break the color line in the once-segregated Glazier and Glass Workers Union, Local 636. He finally became a member of Local 636 in 1953 and in 1965, founded Brown's Glass Company—Los Angeles' first Black-owned